[English]

Railway Projects

1002. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the brief particulars of railway projects which were inaugurated or whose foundation stones were laid since April 1, 1996 with the actual/estimated cost and relevant dates;

(b) the names of States/Union Territories in which no new railway project has been initiated since April 1, 1996; and

(c) the brief particulars of projects under consideration in these States, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Improvement of Passenger Facilities at Railway Stations of Karnataka

1003. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to improve the passenger facilities at Bangalore, Mangalore, Hubli, Dharwad, Mysore, Tumkur, Shimoga and Hassan Railway Stations in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Provision/ improvement to passenger facilities is a continuous process and the same is undertaken at stations wherever so warranted by growth in volume of passenger traffic subject to availability of funds. Accordingly various improvement works on platforms, provision of stairs for foot-over-bridge and washable apron on platform lines at Bangalore City; improvements to station building and augmentation water supply at Mangalore; extension of shed on platforms and paying of surface, facelifting of the station including additional waiting hall facilities, improvements to circulating area, provision of water coolers and carriage watering arrangements on platforms 3 to 5 at Mysore, provision of foot-over-bridge at Tumkur, improvements to station building and extension of shed on platforms at Hassan have been taken up. There are no works in progress at other stations.

Construction of Railway Station

1004. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received mass-petitions for construction of a railway station at village Thaska falling between Rohtak and Gohana line of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any preliminary survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Supply of Steel

1005. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to review the steel distribution policy and to decontrol the supply of steel to the domestic consumers; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) There is no proposal to review the steel distribution policy at present. As per the extant policy, supply of steel is decontrolled. However, the requirements of Defence, Railways, Small Scale Industries, Exporters of Engineering Goods and the North-Eastern Region are met on priority.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

1006. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Gujarat during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, so far, district-wise; and

(b) the number of applicants in the waiting list till December, 1996, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which these waiting lists are likely to be cleared, district-wise and place-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The waiting list as on 31.12.96 for ail the districts and places in Gujarat will be cleared progressively by March, 1999 except technically non feasible cases.